

For Immediate Release
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Chino Storm Drain to be Repaired

The following items came before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors during their February 26th meeting:

- The Board approved a \$122,920 contract with K.A.S. Equipment and Rental, Inc. of Ontario to replace a 291.5-foot section of the Chino Storm Drain. The storm drain is located along the north side of the 60 Freeway right-of-way at Yorba Avenue in the City of Chino. The concrete lining of the section being replaced is deteriorating. Construction is expected to begin in mid-March and be completed by early-May 2002.

“It is important that repairs be made to this drain in order to enhance the safety of the residents of Chino during heavy rains,” said Fourth District Supervisor Fred Aguiar.

- Approval was given for the submission of a grant application to the San Diego State University Foundation in the amount of \$64,470. If received, the funding would be used to implement the initial goals of the Drowning Prevention Network of San Bernardino County. The Drowning Prevention Network was established in January of 2002 by the Children’s Policy Council in response to the large number of drowning deaths in San Bernardino County. From 1996 to 1999, there were 92 drowning deaths in the County and another 153 hospital admissions related to the drowning of children 0 to 14.

“Drowning poses a very real threat to the safety of our children,” commented Supervisor Aguiar, “and we need to do all that we can to address the issue. The formation of the Drowning Prevention Network was an important step in the right direction, and hopefully we will obtain this funding in order to help begin implementation of the Network’s goals.”

The Drowning Prevention Network will address injury and drowning prevention through the education of parents and children, as well as policy makers and professionals.

- The Board began review of the 2002-03 Budget Financing Plan. Included in the plan is the issuance of budget targets to county departments. All non-safety general fund departments are being asked to cut back their budgets by 2% in the upcoming fiscal year.

“In light of current fiscal difficulties at the federal and state level, it is important that we produce a conservative budget that ensures the continued financial stability of the county,” stated Aguiar.

- Due to the large number of patients served at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, the hospital is not always able to accept the transfer of medically indigent adults from private hospitals in the county. In order to compensate for this, the Board approved implementation of a plan to reimburse private hospitals for their care of medically indigent adults. Private hospitals will receive \$750 per day for the care of indigent adults, with an annual cap on the funding available for such reimbursement set at \$2,550,000.

“Private hospitals play an important role in providing for the health of our residents and I am pleased that we could enter into this partnership with them,” said Aguiar.

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